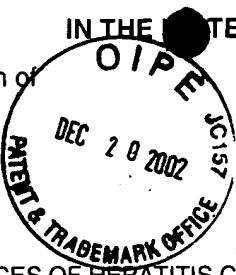


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Maertens et al

Serial No. 09/851,138



Atty Dkt. 2752-43

C# M#

Group Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: Li

Filed: May 9, 2001

Date: December 20, 2002

Title: NEW SEQUENCES OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS GENOTYPES AND THEIR USE AS PROPHYLACTIC, THERAPEUTIC AND DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

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DEC 26 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

RESPONSE/AMENDMENT/LETTER

This is a response/amendment/letter in the above-identified application and includes an attachment which is hereby incorporated by reference and the signature below serves as the signature to the attachment in the absence of any other signature thereon.

 Correspondence Address Indication Form Attached.**Fees are attached as calculated below:**

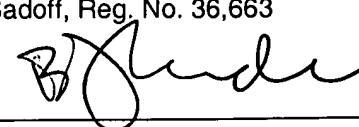
Total effective claims after amendment	0	minus highest number		
previously paid for	20	(at least 20) =	0	\$ 18.00
Independent claims after amendment	0	minus highest number		
previously paid for	3	(at least 3) =	0	\$ 84.00
If proper multiple dependent claims now added for first time, add \$280.00 (ignore improper)			\$	0:00
Petition is hereby made to extend the current due date so as to cover the filing date of this paper and attachment(s) (\$110.00/1 month; \$400.00/2 months; \$920.00/3 months)			\$	400.00
Terminal disclaimer enclosed, add \$ 110.00			\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> First/second submission after Final Rejection pursuant to 37 CFR 1.129(a) (\$740.00)			\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Please enter the previously unentered , filed				
<input type="checkbox"/> Submission attached				
			Subtotal	\$ 400.00
If "small entity," then enter half (1/2) of subtotal and subtract			-\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims "small entity" status. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement filed herewith				
Rule 56 Information Disclosure Statement Filing Fee (\$180.00)			\$	0.00
Assignment Recording Fee (\$40.00)			\$	0.00
Other: Amendment; Copy of Claims from U.S. Patent No. 6,180,768; Two-Month Extension Fee				0.00

TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED \$ 400.00

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

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NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.
 By Atty: B. J. Sadoff, Reg. No. 36,663

Signature: 

16486

695157



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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* * * * *

December 20, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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AMENDMENT

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Responsive to the Office Action dated September 20, 2002, entry and
consideration of the following amendments and remarks are requested.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows:

64. (Amended) A polynucleic acid which is selected from:

Canceled
(i) a polynucleic acid encoding an HCV polyprotein comprising in its amino acid sequence at least one of the following amino acid residues; L186, G217, C252, A254, G290, W293, H295, with said notation being composed of a letter representing the amino acid residue by its one-letter code, and a number representing the amino acid numbering as shown in Table 1,

(ii) a part of said polynucleic acid of (i) which is unique to HCV type 10, or, to the

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